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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/974,777	10/09/2001	Max Schaldach	7040-45	6887

21324 7590 05/21/2004

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EXAMINER

THALER, MICHAEL H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3731

DATE MAILED: 05/21/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<p align="center"><b>Office Action Summary</b></p>	<b>Application No.</b> 09/974,777	<b>Applicant(s)</b> SCHALDACH ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Michael Thaler	<b>Art Unit</b> 3731	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
  - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 April 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 and 5-65 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 and 5-65 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |                                                                                                                        |                                                                                         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                                       | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                                |

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Claims 1, 2, 5-7, 11-30, 47 and 48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by von Open (6,193,747) for the reasons set forth in paragraph 4 of the Office Action mailed Feb. 12, 2003. Further, the bar element portions of von Oepen converge toward each other and meet and thus are arranged in a V-shape. The term "V-shape" merely requires the element to be shaped like a "V" rather than being the precise shape of a "V". Even the bar element portions of applicant's invention are not arranged precisely in the shape of a "V" because they are curved while the sides of a "V" are straight. In addition, applicant's specification, in paragraph [50], defines the term "V-shaped" quite broadly as including limbs 4.3''' and 4.4''' which are arcuate. Further, the von Oepen bar element portions meet "in an angle having a V-shape" as claimed since each pair of bar element portions form an angle even though the bar elements are curved. In addition, the bar element portions of the first annular support portion of von Oepen are "adapted to extend in the longitudinal direction of the stent curvedly in an identical concave or convex arcuate manner" as claimed for the following reasons. Viewing an annular support portion in figure 5 of von Oepen, the bar element portions include longer ones and shorter ones. Each of the longer bar element portions is identical to all of the other longer bar element portion within the annular

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support portion. Each of the shorter bar element portion is identical to all of the other shorter bar element portions within the annular support portion. Thus, the bar element portions extend curvedly in an identical concave or convex arcuate manner as broadly claimed. Further, they are curved uniformly over an entire length for the same reason.

Claims 1, 2 and 5-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Globerman (5,776,161) for the reasons set forth in paragraph 5 of the Office Action mailed Feb. 12, 2003. In addition, the bar element portions of the first annular support portion of Globerman are "adapted to extend in the longitudinal direction of the stent curvedly in an identical concave or convex arcuate manner" as claimed for the same reasons as set forth above regarding the von Oepen reference.

Claims 31-46 and 49-65 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over von Oepen (6,193,747) in view of Kveen et al. (6,261,319) for the reasons set forth in paragraph 6 of the Office Action mailed Feb. 12, 2003.

Applicant's arguments filed April 13, 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive for the reasons set forth above. As to the rejection based upon von Oepen (6,193,747) in view of Kveen et al., the von Oepen connecting bars are

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rectilinear in figure 6 while they are V-shaped in figure 5 as well as in many embodiments of Kveen et al.

**THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Thaler whose telephone number is (703) 308-2981. The examiner can normally be reached Monday to Friday.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703)872-9306.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)308-0858.

mht  
5/19/04



MICHAEL THALER  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
ART UNIT 3731